FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

2 DECEMBER 1986

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi warned Iraq to stop violating the airspace of other Gulf states and he criticized the "indifference" of such states to the Iraqi violations, IRNA reported. Commenting on the possibility that other states in the region cooperated with Iraq in its recent raid on Larak Island, Musavi expressed hope that such reports are false, but he said Iran will investigate the matter to determine which country might have done "such a silly act." He denied that Iran has agreed to give unexploded Soviet-made Iraqi bombs to the United States and also rejected "rumors" that Iran has put its U.S.-manufactured weapons at the disposal of any other country. In another development, Tehran radio announced that the International Red Cross (IRC) has agreed to resume its activities in Iran, citing an IRC statement that "formally requests" Iran to "overlook past differences."

Iraqi President Saddam Husayn commented on Iran's "special and dirty cooperation" with "U.S. organs and the Zionist entity" in a speech broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio, asserting that Iraq was "expecting this to take place before now." Iraq has been calling Ayatollah Khomeyni a "charlatan" since 1981, he pointed out, and even before his movement took power in Iran, the Iraqis expected that its "first evil deed would be against Iraq."

The Greek paper *Dhimokratikos Logos* claimed in a 2 December report cited by AFP that the United States made at least 20 arms deliveries to Iran by air and that several other consignments were made by ship from Western Europe. The paper said it will publish "in the next few days" a full transcript of the tape recordings on which its reports are based.

Israel

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres expressed "shock" over U.S. allegations that Israel transferred funds to the Nicaraguan contras and termed such reports an "anti-Israel plot," Jerusalem radio noted. IDF radio pointed out that checks with "all elements involved" reconfirm that Israel had no prior knowledge of the money's final destination. Sources cited by *The Jerusalem Post* suggested that Saudi Arabia facilitated the funds transfer in connection with its AWACS deal. In a related development, "reliable sources" told the *Post* that the Iranian opposition faction led by Abolhasan Bani-Sadr gave the Beirut paper *Al-Shira'* details of the U.S. arms deal in an attempt to discredit both President Reagan and Ayatollah Khomeyni.

Regarding Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's position on the peace process, Shamir's office stated that he would agree to an "international forum," but only after an agreement has been reached in direct negotiations with other parties, *Ma'Ariv* reported. The paper viewed this statement as a denial that Shamir's position on the issue has changed. Shamir also confirmed that Syria has chemical weapons and called for U.S. assistance in preparing the IDF to "prevent any surprises," *Davar reported*.

Syria

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' referred to the U.S.-Iran affair in a press interview cited by Damascus radio, stating that as Iran is an important state in the region, it is only natural that the United States will seek to establish relations with it using "all moral as well immoral means" to achieve this. Speaking to the UAE's *Al-Khalij*, he added that all talk about an Israeli role in the deal is an attempt to deceive Arabs and Muslims and stop them from establishing good relations with Iran by casting doubts on the latter's slogans about the liberation of Jerusalem and Palestine. On Arab affairs, Al-Shar' said President Hafiz al-Asad has informed the Arab League that Syria supports the convening of a regular Arab summit and that it will make every possible effort to ensure its success.

Lebanon

Reporting on the continuing battles between Amal and Palestinian gunmen, Radio Monte Carlo said that over 30 people were killed and 60 were wounded in clashes at Maghdushah 1 December. Renewed fighting prevented a Lebanese Red Cross attempt to evacuate casualties from the Al-Rashidiyah camp near Tyre, while around 40 tanks bombarded the Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah camps in Beirut. The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon cited reports that 420 people have been killed or wounded in Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah since the fighting started. Baghdad Voice of PLO radio said the Palestinians repulsed fresh attacks on Shatila 1 December and claimed that Syrian artillery bombarded the camp.

In Saudi Arabia, SPA reported a cease-fire appeal by King Fahd, who deplored the continued attacks on Palestinians in Lebanon and warned that Israel is the only benefactor from the conflict.

In a separate development, IDF radio announced that four South Lebanon Army soldiers were killed and seven were injured in a 2 December clash with "terrorists" on the northern edge of Israel's security zone.

DRA

At least 25 DRA troops and Soviet advisers were killed 29 November when Afghan guerrillas shot down a transport plane some 30 miles east of Kabul, according to a rebel news agency cited by AFP.

An article in the *Kabul New Times* cited by BAKHTAR charged that some of the U.S. weapons sent to Iran were intended for Afghan rebels and accused Iran of serving "world imperialism."

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Najibullah Addresses Armed Forces Academy

Questions U.S. Interference

LD020902 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0457 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Kabul, December 1, BAKHTAR — The people of Afghanistan have selected once and for all the path of the April Revolution, the path of revolutionary transformations and social justice.

This was stated by Najib, general secretary of the PDPA CC, at a meeting held on the 10th anniversary of the Academy of the Medical Sciences of the Armed Forces.

The U.S. Administration, which follows the might is right policy in its international relations, makes a lot of noise about its concern over the so-called human rights violations in other countries. Why does the United States interfere in the internal affairs of the DRA, asked Najib. The DRA can solve very well the question of human rights observation without any legal advice from the U.S., Najib said.

The responsibility of the undeclared war against the DRA as a result of which thousands of Afghans have been killed in the past eight years rests with the United States and the reaction of the region.

The fact that the U.S. Administration will not refrain from any actions to promote its selfish interests has been reflected in the secret delivery of American weapons to Iran and the allocation of 600 million dollars to the Afghan counter-revolution during the current Afghan year.

The domestic counter-revolution, imperialism headed by the U.S., and the reaction of the region are striving to prolong the war in Afghanistan, said Najib in his speech.

The strategic objectives of the enemies, general secretary of the PDPA CC said, are inherent in the fact that Afghanistan is being kept as a hot bed of tension in the region so as to exploit the so-called issue of Afghanistan for anti-Soviet and anti-Afghan purposes.

The PDPA and the Government of the DRA are decisively against such a policy and are firmly striving to ensure peace and tranquillity in Afghanistan, Najib emphasized.

Awards Military Personnel

LD020859 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0454 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Kabul, December 1, BAKHTAR — The tenth anniversary of the Academy of Medical Sciences of the Armed Forces of the DRA which is a shining example of the Soviet assistance to the DRA was marked here today.

Prior to participating in the meeting, Najib, General Secretary of the PDPA CC, observed the various services of the hospital of the academy and visited the patients. He also awarded orders and medals of the DRA to a number of personnel of the Armed Forces who had taken active part in the combat activities against the Afghan counter-revolutionaries.

The medals of Red Banner which were approved by the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA were also presented to the academy. Medals and orders of the DRA were also presented by Najib to a number of personnel of the academy who had rendered meritorious services.

The physicians and specialists of the Soviet Union who have served the academy were also awarded with letters of merit of the Central Committee of the PDPA.

Part of U.S. Arms to Iran Intended for Rebels

LD020844 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0427 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Kabul, December 1, BAKHTAR — The secret U.S. arms shipment to Iran has exposed to the world the sordid, double faced policy pursued by the Republican administration, writes an article published by daily *Kabul New Times*. According to the polls, conducted by the ABC TV network, 79 per cent of Americans expressed their outright opposition to the delivery of arms to Iran and doubted the honesty of the U.S. policy makers, the article said further.

Reagan's aides have since revealed that a part of the money paid by Iran was channeled into the Swiss bank accounts of Nicaraguan contras. But they did not speak about the fact that part of the Washington's arms to Iran were intended for Afghan counter-revolutionaries. This demonstrates quite clearly another angle of the U.S. led undeclared war against Afghanistan.

The world press had long ago disclosed that 80 per cent of CIA budget is earmarked for its destructive activities against the people and revolution of Afghanistan. As *[The] Washington Post* reported, the CIA operation against Afghanistan is its biggest operation since the Vietnam war. But the new developments convincingly prove that the reactionary rulers of Iran took a hand in the notorious intrigues, spearheaded by CIA against Afghanistan.

The article adds that the fundamentalist Islamic rulers of Iran who act in connivance with world imperialism have not concealed for a moment their open hostility against revolutionary Afghanistan. While hypocritically raising anti-American and anti-Zionist slogans, in practice they have served nothing but the geo-political strategies of imperialism in the region. The political system which gives birth to scandals such as Watergate, Lockheed, Irangate etc, and which can be sustained only on lies, can not have a future, the article concluded.

Mujahidin Stage 'Blitz' in Dar ol Aman

BK021050 Hong Kong AFP in English 1048 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 2 (AFP) — Afghan guerrillas fired 20 rockets from various points around Kabul into the administrative district of Dar ol Aman in a 15-minute blitz Saturday night, Western diplomats reported here Tuesday. The Afghan Defence

Ministry, the Afghan Army headquarters, and the Soviet Embassy are all located in the Dar ol Aman District.

Diplomats said the attacks may have been intended to "impress" either Diego Cordovez, United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar's special representative on Afghanistan, who is in the region, or a delegation from Soviet Central Asia currently in Kabul. The diplomats did not indicate the extent of the damage, but said Afghan artillery opened up on the four areas from which the rockets seemed to have been fired.

There has also been fighting at Paghman, west of Kabul, diplomats said, adding that some residents had been buried alive in the rubble of their homes, with no rescue teams available to dig them out. The diplomats said November had seen heavy fighting in Shomali, north of Kabul, after an offensive by one of the main guerrilla groups, the Jamiyat-e Eslami.

15-Member Criminal 'Armed Group' Joins State

LD020931 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0451 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Kabul, December 1, BAKHTAR — A 15 member armed group, formerly attached to Mawlawi Muhammad Nabi criminal band, has joined the side of the revolutionary state of the DRA in Chahar Dehi District of Kabul, with its ringleader.

Noor Gul, the ringleader of the band, said in an interview to a BAKHTAR reporter that owing to the poisonous propaganda of the counter-revolutionaries since long they had cooperated with the bandits and have committed anti-Islamic and inhuman deeds.

He further said that when he realized the fact that their resistance against the revolutionary state of the DRA is in vain, he along with his group have left the ranks of the enemy and joined the side of the state of the DRA. "Responding to the declaration of national reconciliation by the part and state of the DRA, we laid down our arms and returned to our homeland", he added.

Repenting over his past misdeeds, Noor Gul said that he and his companions are ready to struggle for ensuring a nation-wide peace and security and for the complete annihilation of the counter-revolutionary bands from the country.

AFP: 'Guerrillas' Down Soviet-Made Transport

BK011712 Hong Kong AFP in English 1703 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 1 (AFP) — Afghan guerrillas have shot down a Soviet-made four-engine transport aircraft over the Sahag Desert 50 kilometres (about 30 miles) east of Kabul, killing at least 25 persons, the pro-guerrilla *Afghan Islamic News Agency* reported Monday. The agency said the plane was shot down Saturday while carrying Afghan troops and Soviet advisors. Eyewitnesses had counted at least 25 bodies at the crash scene.

Afghan and Soviet forces had taken reprisal by shelling nearby villages, killing five persons, the agency said.

Gandhi Says Gorbachev Visit Serves Peace

BK020921 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] The prime minister has described Mr Gorbachev's recent visit to New Delhi as one of enduring significance to the further development of Indo-Soviet relations and the contribution of the two countries to peace and stability. The Delhi declaration signed during the visit is a vitally important initiative.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi said the declaration sets forth principles which must find universal acceptance if there is to be peaceful future. We commend the declaration to the world community for acceptance.

Making a statement in the Lok Sabha today Mr Gandhi informed members that the Delhi declaration is being circulated by the United Nations as an official document.

Talking of bilateral relations, he said commercial and economic exchanges are to be restructured to realize the vast, untapped potential for economic collaboration. Details are being worked out. A Soviet team is to visit shortly to discuss areas of further cooperation in science and technology.

Response Continues to Killings in Punjab

'Certain Actions' Initiated

BK011253 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] In the Lok Sabha members from all sides of the House urged the government to take firm action against the terrorists in Punjab indulging in the killing of innocent people. The agitated members told the speaker that they were not interested in statements but wanted to know what specific measures government plans to take to solve the problem. The House was having a special discussion on the Punjab situation following the killings of bus passengers in Hoshiarpur District yesterday.

The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, told them that the government would come before the House with complete statement along with certain positive steps it proposes to take to meet the situation. In a brief statement, he said 22 persons were killed in the incident and 8 injured. He said paramilitary and police forces are intensively patrolling the area. The home minister appealed to all communities to jointly fight this evil.

Initiating the special discussion, Mr Madhu Dandavate, Janata, charged the government with following an ad-hoc approach to solve the Punjab problem. He maintained that sufficient powers are available to the government under the laws to tackle the problem and alleged that it lacks political will to meet the threat posed by the extremists. Taking part in the discussion, members underlined the need to identify and isolate the forces preaching a separate state. The discussion is continuing.

The prime minister held detailed discussions with the chief minister and governor of Punjab in New Delhi today over the situation in the state in the wake of the killings of bus passengers [in] Hoshiarpur District by terrorists. Giving this information in the Lok Sabha today, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said the chief minister and the governor have told him that they have initiated certain actions last night it will take about 48 hours for results to materialize. He told the House it would not be possible for him to give details at this stage. Mr Gandhi was intervening in the special discussion on the subject in the House.

Punjab Intervention 'Complicated'

BK011429 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in Hindi 1410 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Excerpts] Deep anguish was expressed in the Lok Sabha today over the brutal killing of innocent people in the Hoshiarpur District and other places in Punjab. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Mr Rajiv Gandhi, assuring the members, said that the government will take all possible steps to establish peace in Punjab. The prime minister said that the center faces legal and constitutional obstacles to intervene in Punjab. He said as long as a state government is in power there, even the central police units have to work under the state administration. The prime minister added that the imposition of the president's rule in the state will depend on the governor's report. He said the Indian Government can intervene in Punjab under the antiterrorist act only when the House is willing to amend this act. The prime miniter said the center can intervene on the law and order situation in states only when there is a national concensus. This is a complicated matter.

Meanwhile, heated discussion took place on a special motion moved by Mr Madhu Dandavate, Janata, on this subject. Intervening in the discussion, the prime minister said he has had talks with the state governor, Mr S.S. Ray, and the chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala. The House will be informed about its results within a day or two. Strongly refuting the allegations against the ruling party, the prime minister said no party has made so many sacrifices as the Congress-I workers. Congressmen are active in every village of Punjab.

The prime minister's address was continuing at the writing of this report.

'Traumatic Developments' Viewed

BK011632 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1545 GMT 1 Dec 86

["Spotlight" program on Punjab situation by V.D. Chopra, vice president, Patriot group of publications]

[Excerpts] The traumatic developments which had been rocking Punjab in the recent months, including gunning down of 26 persons — 24 of them bus passengers last evening — have caused widespread anxiety in the entire nation. That this issue figured prominently in today's proceedings of Parliament twice show how indignant leaders of all the political parties are over the activities of the terrorists in this border state. [passage omitted tracing developments in Punjab]

There is another dimension of terrorism in Punjab, a dimension which some people ignore. The Indian nation state has become a major factor in the world, in this region in particular. In spite of the trauma of [India-Pakistan] partition, the Indian people refuse to accept the ideology of a state based on religion and decided to establish a modern secular state which is welding together different religious, ethnic, linguistic, and other groups in a modern nation state. Its potentials are vast and it is on the verge of a significant take off. It has set a model of cooperation between countries with different social systems and has emerged as a bridge between societies with diverse historical and political grounds.

India in the scheme of certain powers must be broken and weakened if their game is to succeed. Attempts to overwhelm it by external military action and by arming some neighboring countries having failed, these powers are engaged in identifying and activating points of tension within the Indian polity. Destabilization and Balkanization of India is their strategic goal and forces of communalism and terrorism their allies and instruments. That a new cartographic aggression against India has begun in certain areas of India, particularly in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir [which] are shown in these maps as outside India, should not be treated lightly. This cartographic agression is being matched by overt and covert support to the secessionists. Let us not make any bones about it. The Punjab events need to be placed in this broad context. In Punjab the foundation of Indian nation is under attack. What is at stake is the very concept of modern Indian nation state.

Punjab Akali Dal Leader Arrested

BK020249 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Mr Prakash Singh Badal, leader of the breakaway Akali Dal and a former chief minister of the state [Punjab], has been arrested at Ropar early this morning. The chief minister, Mr Barnala, told our Chandigarh correspondent that the arrest has been made for his role in supporting the terrorist activities in the state.

Antiterrorist Squads To Be Set Up

BK020259 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] The Punjab government has announced a number of political and administrative measures to deal with the situation in the state arising from recent terrorist activities. The measures were agreed to at a high-level meeting of senior civil and police officers presided over by the chief minister, Mr Barnala, in Chandigarh last night.

The state government decided to forfeit and confiscate properties of persons found guilty of terrorist offenses or of persons abetting or harboring terrorists. It was also decided to set up antiterrorist squads under senior police officers. The squads will comprise Punjab police personnel and paramilitary forces.

Security Tightened for Strike

BK020319 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Authorities in Delhi have made arrangements to ensure maintenance of essential services in view of a call for bundh [strike] in Delhi today given by the Bharatiya Janata Party in protest against the killing of bus passengers near Hoshiarpur. Arrangements have been made to ensure that no untoward incidents take place during the bundh. The chairman of Delhi Transport Corporation [DTC], Mr R.N. Kapur, told All India Radio correspondent that DTC buses will not ply in the morning. The service may be resumed later during the day after taking stock of the situation in the capital.

In Punjab, Haryana, and the union territory of Chandigarh also, all political parties have given a bundh call for today. The administrations have tightened security measures in view of the bundh call and police patrolling has been intensified. Security forces are guarding vital installations. Bus services in Haryana have been suspended till noon. The district administrations in the state have been empowered to close educational institutions. Police patrolling on the national highway has been strengthened.

Strike Observance Reported

BK020913 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] Delhi is observing a bundh [strike] today in protest against the killings of bus passengers in Hoshiarpur District of Punjab. Shops and business establishments are closed in response to the call given by the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP]. City buses are off the road, autorickshaws and some taxis are, however, plying. There is a thin attendance in offices, banks, and educational institutions. According to police, two matadors [vans] and a scooter were set on fire by a crowd in east Delhi. Stray incidents of stone pelting and blocking of traffic has been reported. In the Lahorigate locality in north Delhi, one ASI [Assistant Sub-Inspector] has been injured. Four persons were arrested in the Delhi cantonment area for stopping vehicles. One hundred people were taken into custody in west Delhi for violating prohibitory orders.

The Bharatiya Janata Party has appealed to its workers to be extremely cautious and not to allow their protest to take a violent turn again under any circumstances. A statement by the general secretary of the party, Mr Kishanlal Sharma, urged the people, especially BJP workers to maintain peace and harmony in the state where a bundh is being observed today.

Bundh is also being observed in several places in north India. In Haryana, Punjab, and the Union territory of Chandigarh, markets, educational institutions, and business houses are closed in a number of places. State transport services have been curtailed in view of the bundh. No violence has been reported from any place so for.

In Himachal Pradesh, several towns, including Simla and Mandi, are observing the bundh. Shops and commercial institutions are

closed; essential services like transport and educational institutions have been exempted.

Reports from Jammu say that normal life has been disrupted as the city went on a day's strike. Vehicles are off the road and shops closed. Offices and essential services have not been affected.

Breakaway Akali Candidate Wins in Sikh Election

BK301619 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 30 Nov 86

[Text] The breakaway Akali Dal candidate, Mr Gurcharan Singh Tohra, has been elected president of the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak [Sikh temple management] Committee [SGPC]. In the election held today in Amritsar, he defeated the ruling Akali Dal nominee and present SGPC chief, Mr Kabul Singh. Mr Tohra polled 74 votes, while Mr Kabul Singh got 58. One vote was canceled.

Our correspondent, Amrik Singh Virk, reports from Amritsar that polling was held under tight security. Later, other office bearers and an 11-member executive committee were elected unanimously. Mr Harinder Singh Taran Taran was elected senior vice president, Mr Ujagir Singh Rangreta junior vice president, and (Mal Singh Ghuman) the general secretary.

Speaking to newsmen, the chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, said the ruling party is likely to take disciplinary action against all those who worked against its interest in today's election. He, however, asserted that the outcome of the poll would have no bearing on his government since it is responsible to the legislature, whereas the SGPC is only responsible for management of gurdwaras.

Official Arrested 2 Dec

BK020449 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0435 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Excerpt] Mr G.S. Tohra, newly elected president of the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak [Sikh Temples Management] Committee, and Mr Prakash Singh Badal, leader of the breakaway Akali Dal, have been arrested.

Mr Tohra was arrested in Tohra village of Patiala District this morning. Punjab's minister of state for home, Captain Kanwaljit Singh, told our Chandigarh correspondent that Mr Tohra has been detained for lending respectability to the nefarious activities of antinational elements. [passage omitted]

2 Ministers Dropped From Punjab Cabinet

BK011557 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Here is a message just received: The Punjab chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, has dropped two of his ministers from the cabinet. They are the education minister, Mr Basant Singh Khalsa, and the minister for industrial training and technical education, Mr Nirmal Singh Kahlon. The All India Radio Chandigarh correspondent says they are suspected to have voted in favor of [dissident Akali leader] Mr Tohra in yesterday's SGPC elections. With this the strength of the Punjab cabinet has now been reduced to 29.

Five Killed by 'Terrorists' in Punjab 1 Dec

BK020301 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] In Punjab, terrorists shot dead five persons in two different incidents last evening. Four persons were killed in village Kotla, including three members of the family of a shopkeeper and one customer.

In another incident in Batala, one head constable of Punjab police was shot dead by three terrorists who came on a motorcycle.

4 Shot in Further 'Terrorist' Acts

BK011147 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1138 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] In Punjab, four persons were shot dead by suspected terrorists in two different incidents. The police spokesman told our Chandigarh correspondent that two scooter-borne suspected terrorists shot dead three persons in village Rhode in Faridkot District this morning. In the second incident, two suspected terrorists shot dead one person near village Daulatpur in Gurdaspur District. An indefinite curfew was imposed in the (Suva) town as a precautionary measure. In Jullundhur, police fired plastic bullets on an agitated mob when the lathi [baton] charge by the CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] personnel proved abortive.

Pakistan Said Allowing Transit of U.S. Aircraft

BK020922 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] The Rajya Sabha was told today that Pakistan has confirmed that it allows the transit of U.S. military aircraft periodically from its air bases. The external affairs minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari, said in a written reply that the U.S. Government has also stated that transit facilities are used by its military aircraft with the approval of the Pakistan Government. Pakistan has, however, said that the accord of such facilities was a normal practice.

Navy Chief Discusses Plans for Expansion

BK011644 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] The Indian Navy has completed designing a new missile destroyer. Its keel will be laid next year in Bombay. The ship will be the first of a class of vessels that will follow the Godavari class of frigates. The naval chief, Admiral Tahiliani, told newsmen in New Delhi today that the Navy's design organization has now acquired sufficient expertise to begin basic design work of an indigenous aircraft carrier. The new India-built naval ship *INS [Indian Navy Ship] Kukri* is being launched in Bombay on Wednesday, the anniversary of the sinking of the earlier *Kukri*.

It had gone down on the 3d of December 1971 during the Bangladesh operation. The new *Kukri* will be launched by (Suda Mulla), widow of Captain (Mulla), who was the commander of the *Kukri* and went down with the ship.

Admiral Tahiliani also said the former *HMS Hermes*, which is being fitted out in Britain, will join the Indian Navy in March next as *INS Vikrant* flying the Indian flag. It will be brought to India by the middle of next year.

SRI LANKA

Relations With Israel Not To Be Reestablished

BK290331 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 29 Nov 86

[Text] The Sri Lankan foreign minister, Mr A.C.S. Hameed, says that his country is not going to reestablish diplomatic relations with Israel. Speaking in Parliament he clarified that the recent visit of the Israeli president to Colombo was at the insistance of Tel Aviv. He, however, said the bilateral ties have only been suspended and not severed. There are certain inner compulsions for Sri Lanka to talk to Israel.

Earlier, the leader of the opposition, Mr Anura Bandaranaike, charged the Jayewardene government with isolating the country from its friends in India, West Asia, and the Third World by allowing the Israeli president's visit.

Our Colombo correspondent Piabon Majumder reports that the only Muslim opposition member, Mr Halim Ishaq, held Israel responsible for creating a rift between the Tamils and Tamil-speaking Muslims in eastern Sri Lanka. He alleged that Israeli-trained police commandos are in charge of security operations in the eastern Batticaloa District.

USSR Envoy Explains Stand on Ethnic Issue

BK021143 Colombo International Service in English
1045 GMT 2 Dec 86

[Text] The Soviet Union's position regarding Sri Lanka's ethnic problem is unchanged, and they consider it an internal matter which should be solved by Sri Lanka. This was stated by the ambassador of the USSR in Sri Lanka, K.N. Kulmatov, at a news conference held in Colombo yesterday. Responding to a question by a newsman, the Soviet ambassador said that the talks between the Indian prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi, and President Jayewardene was considered to be positive, and the Soviet Union hoped that the problem would be settled soon.

Referring to President Jayewardene's visit to Moscow, the USSR ambassador said that the mutual agreement was reached to postpone the visit until next year. Mr Kulmatov said that during the Soviet leader's visit to New Delhi, the Indian Ministry of External Affairs had informed the Soviet foreign minister, Eduard Shevardnadze, about India's role as mediator in Sri Lanka's ethnic problem.

'Change' Urged in Tamil Revolutionary Struggle

BK011140 (Clandestine) Voice of Tamil Eelam
in English 1324 GMT 26 Nov 86

[Station commentary]

[Text] The startling developments in the Philippines on the 23d of November need careful examination. It is not the resignation of Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile or his swift replacement that is at the center of the drama. It is the actual role of the military over the past few weeks that is of special significance.

The important factor — indeed fact — in the current situation in the Philippines is that the military and the communist New People's Army have become entrenched enemies. They have been at war with each other for 17 years, with neither side having gained much actual territorial advantage over the basic areas of control. It is therefore very difficult for the military to accept the guerrillas to become part of the normal processes of the country. The guerrillas, meanwhile, accept that they are not really making any headway in the day-to-day struggle. The whole situation has become a stalemate with some pressure on the guerrillas to turn themselves into a political force. But it may not be rational on the part of the military to allow this. The military is (?swearing) to fight and to destroy their entrenched opponents. Even though they may have some political power — in fact in the Philippines they wield a considerable amount of this — they do not see themselves as an actual part of the political process. In fact, like Juan Ponce Enrile, who is essentially a military man, they find the political process a nuisance and are constantly seeking short-cuts and ways around it.

There are similar situations in other countries. Peru is another recent example that comes into mind where even after the election of a socialist government the basic animosity between the Shining Path [Sendero Luminoso] Maoist guerrillas and the Armed Forces has been so strong that no negotiations have been possible, nor does it seem likely that the Sendero Luminoso will ever be in the kind of territorial strength they need to pose a lasting threat to the government in Lima, whatever that government may happen to be.

The significance of these two situations as far as the struggle in Sri Lanka for Tamil Eelam is concerned is this: The Sri Lankan military and the fighters for Tamil Eelam have not yet become entrenched foes. Thus, the territorial boundaries of their control are beginning to emerge. This is a very dangerous thing for the freedom struggle of the Tamils. This is why we have kept saying that, however long it takes, a revolutionary struggle must be a dynamic thing, not a static one. The moment a revolutionary process, even a military one, becomes stuck in one unchanging situation, it loses its forward thrust completely. There then emerge two groups — the military and a group or groups fighting for liberation. Both groups have worked out certain ground rules. Both groups have become accustomed to the idea trhat they are locked in permanent conflict, and both grow less and less interested in the ultimate goal. Soon the purpose of war becomes war itself. Once that happens, there is no future for revolution. Mao Zedong and all the great revolutionaries of the world realized this. That is why they kept their struggles for liberation constantly alive, but constantly changing in intensity and tactics, never losing sight of the goal. In Tamil Eelam, too, it is time for a change.

Khamene'i Ready To Fight To Liberate Palestine

LD011428 Tehran IRNA in English 1344 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 1, IRNA — The Iranian Muslim and revolutionary nation is ready to fight to the last bullet to liberate Palestine and the holy lands, said President 'Ali Khamene'i here Monday.

In his message on the occasion of the international day of solidarity with Palestinians today, President Khamene'i expressed regret over the indifference and compromising position of certain Arab states towards the Palestinian issue, stressing that reactionary states which compromise with the global arrogance severely serve to make the Zionist regime more impudent. The Muslim [word indistinct] regret over such acts is surely not less than that over the occupation of Palestine by the Zionists, said the president.

The president also expressed hope that Palestinian organisations would not opt for mere political moves, useless trips, and negotiations as a basic struggle against the Zionists. He called on them to direct their efforts at the real campaign and fight hand in hand with revolutionary Palestinians against the Zionist occupiers.

Montazeri Urges Muslims To Defend Interests

LD011349 Tehran IRNA in English 1335 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 1, IRNA — Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri urged world Muslims to equip themselves with defensive means in the fight with their enemies so that they can administer their own political, economic, and cultural affairs. Any society willing to stand on its own feet should be able to protect itself against its enemies, he added.

The future spiritual leader of the Islamic Revolution made the remarks in a speech to a group of visiting Basij (mobilization) volunteer forces in Qom, Central Province, Monday, where he added that based on the Koranic verses enemies of Islam are divided into two categories, foreign enemies and the fifth column.

Muslim governments should equip themselves with a huge manpower and a large amount of military hardware in order to cope with their foreign enemies, Montazeri said. But, Montazeri noted, such a manpower and military equipment should not be used as a means for either exerting economic pressures or launching aggression against the oppressed nations.

The world of Islam should be so strong that neither the U.S., nor the Soviet Union or other blasphemous powers in the world would dare launch aggression against Muslim lands. The grand ayatollah furthermore said that the other category of enemies is the fifth column who are involved in spying for foreign governments and stabbing Muslims in the back in Islamic countries.

Addressing the visiting volunteers, he said, "today, you, by performing your divine duties and by amassing at all scenes have revived the memory of the U.S.'s bitter defeat at the hands of the resistant Vietnamese people."

Ayatollah Montazeri also called on all Muslims to undergo military training courses and pick their arms themselves in their eternal fight with blasphemy. Because, he said, blasphemy has always fought and will continue to fight Islam and Muslims.

Elsewhere in his speech, Montazeri emphasized on the need to boost the country's domestic economic and military power and said that talented Iranian youth should be encouraged to help the country attain self-sufficiency in all industrial fields including the manufacture of arms.

The ayatollah also underlined the importance of the popular support for the Muslim forces of Iran fighting the Ba'thist Iraqi troops, calling on the people to further their assistance.

In conclusion, Ayatollah Montazeri lauded the volunteers for their massive presenve in the war fronts.

Musavi Warns Iraq, Rejects U.S. Arms 'Rumors'

LD011615 Tehran IRNA in English 1600 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 1, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi issued a stern warning to Iraq to desist from violating the airspace of the Persian Gulf states, here Monday. He also expressed deep regret over the indifference of the regional countries towards the Iraqi violations. The prime minister said that now that the regional countries are convinced that Iraq's Saddam Husayn is on his way out they had better consider their future relations with the powerful Iran. He called on them to stand beside Iran in running the affairs of the Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean.

Commenting on the reports that some regional countries had collaborated with Iraq in its last week raid on Larak Island, Musavi said "We hope the reports are false, but we will seriously continue with our investigation to determine which country might have done such a silly act." "Iran will never hesitate to deal a tit-for-tat blow and it is a big mistake for any country to think otherwise," Musavi said.

On Iran's stand on the Iraqi air raid on Abu Dhabi's offshore oil platform last week, the premier said because the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has a moderate stand in relations with the Islamic Republic, the shaky regime in Baghdad exerts pressure on the UAE from time to time in order to force it to change its stand. "This is a fact that has been accepted by UAE officials and others," he added. Premier Musavi furthermore said that the world has now accepted that the Iraqi regime is on its way out. Therefore, he added, the regional countries had better side with the powerful Islamic Revolution.

The prime minister also refuted propaganda of Western mass media that Iran had agreed to give unexploded Iraqi bombs, manufactured by the East bloc, to the U.S. He said the Iraqi regime is completely in the hands of the U.S. and consequently Washington does not need any help in acquiring such weaponry. Musavi also rejected rumors that Iran had put its U.S.-manufactured weapons at the disposal of any country and noted "Iran pursues an independent policy in such matters."

Former Defense Minister Comments on U.S. Arms

TA281925 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1825 GMT 28 Nov 86

["Exclusive" interview with former Naval Commander and Defense Minister Admiral Madani, who "served during the first period of the Islamic Revolution in Iran," by Yo'av Tocker, in Paris, date not given, in English — videotaped]

[Text][Tocker] Mr Madani, you were at a top level of responsibility of the Iranian military machine. How essential do those spare parts and weapons that were delivered seem to you?

[Madani] Well, of course those spare parts are essential. They are very important because when you have different or no spare parts, you can do nothing at all and you have to feed it anyway if you want to make it useful and keep it running, or else it's nothing. It becomes something you cannot benefit from. The point is, if you want to run the war on and on and on, then you will lose everything —a generation, a country, everything — and nothing will be left at all. That's what I mean; to me keeping this catastrophic war, such a long-running conflict of more than 6 years, going on and on and on is foolishness.

[Tocker] According to your understanding of the internal political military decisionmaking in Tehran, how high up the political hierarchy could a decision such as that have been made?

[Madani] Well, actually, in a country run by, actually I should say in a dictatorship run in a dictatorial way, the leaders are all aware of the situation and no top leaders' secrets are kept from them at all.

[Tocker] In your opinion, would it make any difference that Israel apparently served as an intermediary in this affair?

[Madani] Well, it makes no difference. We know that the arms are American and regarding the spare parts, they have to receive them from there indirectly or directly. It makes no difference who intervenes. Somebody intervenes whether it's at the governmental level or not. Sometimes it may not be at the governmental level at all; it could be other than political leaders deciding what to do. Sometimes it may happen by ordinary, shall we say, by smugglers. And sometimes it does involve top level politicians.

[Tocker] How do you assess the fact that the Americans at least officially believed or had believed that delivering arms could eventually help in the hostages' problem. Is that naive? Is that....[interrupted]

[Madani] That to me is naive because sometimes in the political field people who are not very reliable are trusted. Thus, when you are dealing with such unreliable people, when it comes to them keeping their promises, it can be very difficult. See? Thats why to me, all this seems naive.

[Tocker] Can you see reasons other than the hostages' issue for the Americans and the Israelis to help the Iranian Army in this context?

[Madani] I don't think there's any other reason. From the point of earnings, there is not much of a financial reason. They did it politically and psychologically, of course. And as for hostages, to my assessment at least [relay ends in mid-sentence]

Larijani on Gulf War, Superpower Ties

PM271601 Amsterdam DE VOLKSKRANT in Dutch 22 Nov 86 Supplement p 1

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic and International Affairs Mohammad Javad Larijani by Maarten Jan Hijmans: "I Ask You: Why Does the Gulf Have To Burn?" — date, place not given]

[Text] [Question] Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani said in September, in an interview during "War Week" that Iran has absolutely no desire to annex any of Iraq's territory but is simply continuing to fight to topple President Saddam Husayn and to win restoration payments. Iran will leave the choice of a new regime to the Iraqi people. However, at the same time he indicated that the war could end even before Saddam's fall with the establishment of an international tribunal which would brand Saddam as an aggressor. This seems new to me. Does this indicate that Iran is now more prepared to end the war through diplomatic channels than it was a while ago?

[Answer] I think that the question should be put in a different way. It is better to ask whether there is a greater preparedness to strive for a political solution, because as far as we are concerned, that was what we always wanted. what Rafsanjani said was that an international recognition of the Iraqi regime's guilt in this war could ease the way to such a political solution.

The countries and organizations which have hitherto attempted to mediate have always pushed this aspect into the background: They avoided answering the question of who started the war and what the aggression actually entailed. They dashed into the thick of the conflict, as it were, without bothering themselves about its causes. But for us that is now the main issue: The fall of Saddam is secondary. For us it is important to outlaw the aggression completely. How could we sit down at the same table as Iraq? You must not forget what they wanted: They wanted to topple the regime in Iran. And that is something that is not negotiable; we cannot debate our own existence. That is what Rafsanjani was getting at, and that has been our point of departure from the very beginning.

[Question] But what is your assessment of the chances of achieving such a political settlement? Do you see any movement — internationally speaking — in the direction of the Iranian position?

[Answer] That is our difficulty. In a real political solution Saddam cannot remain in power. As long as he continues to rule, a political settlement can never be a complete settlement. On the other hand, there can be no progress as long as the proposals that are made continue to take the view that Saddam must remain at any price as their point of departure. Saddam's scenario is as follows: He says: "OK, I attacked you; you pushed me back to the border; that is where we are now; let us just be friends

again." But we cannot accept that. How can we believe him? Who is there to guarantee us that things will remain like that? The Security Council? The Security Council has yet to adopt a single resolution condemning the Iraqi attack or showing understanding of our position. That is to say: If we can trust no one, then we simply have to put our faith in our own weapons.

[Question] Given this situation, is there any chance that you are prepared to join in a possible new peace mission formed by UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar?

[Answer] As far as the most recent Security Council resolution which would have to serve as a basis for negotiations is concerned: We have the same reservations about it as we had with past resolutions. First, the most important question of who was responsible for the aggression is still not answered. Second, there is no suggestion of a neutral point of departure. The resolution was the result of a request from seven Arab countries, including Iraq, Egypt, and Jordan. If these countries launch an appeal, how can you expect a neutral resolution to be the result? The resolution suggested a new situation: the threat of a major, new Iranian offensive. But there are Iraqi attacks continualiy against civilian and oil installations. We ask ourselves why the mere threat of a new offensive points to a new situation. This is the reason we do not want to work with the Security Council.

We did send a letter to Perez de Cuellar 6 months ago which he recently published. In it we said that we are prepared to work with him on three points: First, is the point of eliminating aggression and removing its repercussions; second, our willingness to work together to bring about an end to things that are in conflict with international laws, such as chemical warfare and attacks on civilian aircraft or on nonmilitary targets; and third, the search for methods to prevent the conflict from spreading to other countries in the region. That is a new element. We do not want to see the Persian Gulf go up in flames. There is a real danger of that: A fire in undergrowth has a tendency to spread. We have said that we are prepared to sign a security pact with the countries in the region and to refrain from interfering in their affairs and from threatening them with military force. We want to broaden cooperation with them, but on the basis of their neutrality in the conflict. We are prepared to go even further than this. We are prepared to declare the Persian Gulf a nonmilitary zone. Militarily this is to our disadvantage because we have a Navy and Iraq does not. This is really a pretty comprehensive range of points and we are prepared to discuss all of them.

[Question] Iran, it seems, is now combining a military strategy with a political one more than in the past. It appears that in this connection you are trying above all to persuade the Gulf states that support Iraq, such as Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, to end this support. Do you think you will ever succeed in winning their confidence and toppling Saddam, who is also almost as feared as you are?

[Answer] That is a very important point. In the first place, the Gulf states are no match for us militarily. Imagine for example that Saudi Arabia were to aid Iraq militarily. Its Army numbers around 30,000 men, some of whom are still Pakistanis. We on the other hand have over 2 million men. Thus, there is no reason for us to trouble ourselves about that.

However, the war will end one day. And we will have to live with them then. In security: The Saudis too will have to live securely. But how? Will we have to invite the United States or the Soviet Union to see to this? No, we think security must be a collective responsibility for the whole region, and in this Iran wants to be an important partner. And for this reason our attempt at an approach to them is honestly and seriously meant. As far as our relations with them are concerned, with Saudi Arabia and with the Emirates for example, things are going in the right direction. But trust is something that is difficult to build; it is not something that you buy at the supermarket down the block.

[Question] There is of course an important obstacle: that is your revolution's Islamic ideology, which they fear, and Iran's enthusiasm for exporting it to other countries.

[Answer] Let us just look at what is actually happening. Here we have a revolution that is very popular among the populations of other countries — Egypt, for example, or Iraq, or Morocco. And it is true that it is a revolution with necessary slogans and points of departure which clash with the official line of those countries. That is one side of the matter. The other side is that we certainly do not have the means to interfere in those countries' internal affairs. Well, we do have our radio, which broadcasts Islamic positions or our position on Zionism. They call that interference....

Take Kuwait. It is said that we threaten Kuwait. But what is actually the case is that there is a threat from inside, from their own people. By helping Saddam they were able to pressure us, but this does not remove the threat. It is as it was with the French revolution: Although it died in its French motherland, its influence spread throughout the whole of Europe. It is completely stupid for Kuwait to help Saddam because, even if Iran were to go under, the threat from within would remain. The situation in Egypt is the same.

[Question] I have already spoken here with Supreme Defense Council member Kamal Kharrazi. When I asked him whether a new offensive is to be expected in "this decisive year," he said that Iran is striving for a "political-military situation in which a decisive blow can be inflicted with as little loss of human life as possible." What should I understand by this? That the emphasis for Iran is not only on the battlefield, but on the political front?

[Answer] You must understand it to mean that our military strategy is an extension of our political goals. It has never been a goal in itself. When Saddam attacked us at a weak moment, there might have been a case for reaching an agreement and waiting until we were stronger to strike back, but we did not do so. We are now strong and the situation is no different. We are now in a position to launch an attack along the whole border and it is as President Khamene'i, chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, has said: "We will choose the right moment." But we are absolutely not stamping our feet impatiently to march on Baghdad as the allies in World War II marched on Berlin. It would be much better if a number of circumstances could combine to cause a kind of chemical reaction, as a result of which, things would proceed of their own accord.

[Question] Rafsanjani recently revealed that secret negotiations with the United States have taken place through Japanese mediation and that a U.S. representative, Robert McFarlane, paid a secret visit to Tehran. What can you say about the possibility of negotiations with the United States in the future?

[Answer] "Negotiations" is the wrong word; "contacts" is the best word. After all, you can talk even to your enemy. But what should be at the top of the agenda here is the subject of arms. It is no secret that the United States unilaterally scrapped agreements worth $500 million for the supply of arms which at the beginning of the war were ready for shipping. They included F-14 jet aircraft for which we had already paid. It is not for nothing that they have had difficulty in defending themselves at the court in The Hague. We have always said that we wanted these spare parts — or compensation.

Militarily we have tried to cover ourselves by buying arms where they were to be had. During the war in Vietnam it happened that even U.S. tanks were smuggled to Hanoi without too much trouble. things are still going on like this in the world — it is no secret that we buy quite a lot on the free market. At the same time, we have reorganized our Army into a kind of people's army armed with what we can provide ourselves. Then there are also things that come from the United States — even, as I know, with their approval.

But U.S. policy toward Iran is completely absurd and laughable. This shows that they do not understand what is happening in this region. What point is there in opposing Islam? They have been actively engaged in propaganda campaigns against us, in a whole serious of coup attempts, and in engaging the support of dissidents and counterrevolutionaries. Pointless. What do they want in this region? There is no room for dominance. In other countries too their influence is shaky. But relations which are based on reasonableness and respect — that is something completely different. In other words: If they do not abandon their policy directed against us, there is no place for relations. But we no longer reject relations based on reciprocal respect.

[Question] I have been able to hear here and there in Tehran that McFarlane's visit did not come out of the blue but was quite well prepared, and that Rafsanjani had to make the visit known to the world because of leaks about these contacts to the Lebanese press by Iranian oppositionists. Can you confirm that the arrest of Mehdi Hashemi had nothing to do with this?

[Answer] What Rafsanjani said may have had something to do with a leak. But perhaps the Americans caused this leak themselves — in order to misrepresent our foreign policy and to cause internal unrest. Our people have kept an unpleasant taste for U.S. dominance. Fortunately, the Iranians have confidence in their politicians so we did not find the affair that important.

[Question] There have also been some acid remarks in Parliament about your rapprochement with another Western country — France....

[Answer] That is a completely different story. With France the approach has been open. Our UN representative spoke with their foreign minister for 6 hours. It was in all the papers, and this has been going on for months. It is possible that there is opposition to this in certain circles. We do not live behind the Iron Curtain here. These circles may speak their minds, but this will not hinder these approaches, because they have an influence on our good relations with a large number of other European countries, including the Netherlands.

[Question] As far as general relations are concerned the Islamic Republic seems to have been very active in the last year. Rafsanjani went to Asia, Prime Minister Musavi went to East Germany and Hungary and there were talks with the Soviet Union. Is this an attempt to change the "isolationism" of the period after the revolution?

[Answer] Isolation is something that we were said to have. We have never been isolated, not even when the U.S. Embassy was held hostage. No. But we are indeed more active, and the reason is that there is a young government and there is more consolidation of the regime. The government is more mature, there are new ideas about international affairs — at any rate there are different ideas. The fact is, if you have something to say, you are keen to do so. We are still hampered by economic difficulties and the war, but despite this we have created a certain freedom of movement. For us, an important moment was the last conference of the nonaligned nations in Harare where we were very active and in our view played an important role.

[Question] It is also said that since February there has been an improvement in relations with the Soviet Union. You yourself took part in those talks?

[Answer] The approach to the Soviet Union is taking place on a kind of long-term basis. We have the necessary interests in common — a long common border, for example — and Moscow has always shown a comparatively decent amount of respect for our revolution. We talked about economic and technical cooperation. An important topic is the supply of natural gas. There is a pipeline, but since the revolution, there has been a difference of opinion about the price. This has still not been entirely resolved, but there is agreement in principle on the supply of natural gas via the pipeline to Western Europe. You probably know that we are number one in the world when it comes to natural gas reserves, and we have plans for a pipeline to Western Europe via Turkey.

There are also two other differences between us and Moscow: the war with Iraq, and Afghanistan. We think that their arms supplies to Iraq are completely out of place and find it difficult to understand how the Soviet Union can be in the same company as Jordan and Egypt. And as far as Afghanistan is concerned, we think that the occupation was ridiculous and should be ended unconditionally. But we are, of course, opposed to a U.S.-dominated Afghanistan. We only find an independent Afghanistan acceptable.

Relations are broadening in a normal way and we think that a strong and independent Iran is in the interest of the Soviet Union as well as in the interest of the West. Moscow can feel safe now that our northern mountains no longer contain NATO radar and

U.S. intelligence centers. On the other hand, a strong Iran could play an important role in the security of the whole region, and here the West would have to be a little more tolerant. That is yet another reason why the U.S. hostility is so absurd: It is against Western interests.

[Question] Yes, but the West does have reasons to distrust you. To name two of them: the occupation of the U.S. Embassy, which contravened all the Vienna and Hague conventions, and the sending of the Hezbollah to Lebanon.

[Answer] I would dare to compare the occupation of the embassy and the violation it represented of all international norms to the way in which the Americans previously — from their embassy in Tehran — ignored the independence of Iran. And I am not talking about the 1953 coup against Mossadeq in which the shah returned to power, but about all the coup attempts in the period since the revolution. There is an awful lot to tell on this subject and I could go on for a long time if I were to begin. Our intelligence service was not very strong then and our influence was not very great. We broadcast a few things on the radio but that did not make much impression in the West. But just take it from me that that too was contrary to international rules.

And then there is the sending of people to Lebanon. There is room there too for comparison. Is what the Americans and Israelis did in Lebanon at all acceptable? Was that in line with international laws, and the sending of Hezbollah to help the resistance not in line with them? I ask you: Where in the world have we prepared a coup or carried out an invasion, as in Grenada?

[Question] Yes, but to return again to Hashemi; his bureau was responsible for all sorts of things such as the sending this summer of explosives to Mecca in Saudi Arabia.

[Answer] Indeed, and that is the very reason why he is now in prison.

Envoy Surprised Over Italy's Arms to Iraq

LD012002 Tehran IRNA in English 1816 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Rome, Dec 1, IRNA — An Italian Foreign Ministry official disclosed here Monday that some Italian firms had manufactured chemical weapons and shipped them to Iraq. In a meeting with the Iranian charge d'affaires to Rome, Mohammad-Reza Entezari, the official said that the firms were not aware of an Italian ban on arms exports to Iraq. When the Italian Government officials were informed of the issue, said the official, they called on the firms to return part of the chemical materials which had not yet been shipped.

The Iranian charge d'affaires termed the explanations as "unsatisfactory" and expressed surprise over Italian involvement in chemical arms shipment from the Netherlands to Iraq. If this massive foreign aid had not been delivered to Iraq, peace and tranquility would have been restored to the region long ago, Entezari said.

Talks on French Debt Settlement Continue

LD011938 Tehran IRNA in English 1730 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 1, IRNA — An Iranian delegation led by head of the country's atomic energy organization Reza Amrollahi was in Paris [word indistinct] talks with French officials on resolving financial disputes between the two countries.

The delegation which left here for Paris last week held four days of talks on Iranian membership in France's Eurodif company as well as exchanged views with French officials on how to settle a French debt to Iran. The talks were adjourned till next month.

The Iranian delegation also held talks with the French contractor Karoun, which builds atomic power stations which is also a party in the deal. The Islamic Republic of Iran has a 10 percent stake in Eurodif.

France deposited $330 million in Iran's account last week as partial settlement of the $1 billion loan granted to the company by the deposed shah's regime.

Red Cross Announces Resumption of Activities

LD011820 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] The International Red Cross has issued a statement announcing the resumption of its activities in Iran. Following its report on the Iraqi POW camp incident in Gorgan in 1984, the International Red Cross Committee was banned from undertaking any activities in Iran. In the report, the Red Cross published a biased report on a clash between repentant Iraqi POW's and Ba'thist POW's in Gorgan camp, which left 6 dead and 40 wounded. However, this stance was later rejected by a delegation dispatched by the United Nations to Iran.

The Red Cross statement formally requests the Islamic Republic of Iran to overlook past differences. The statement also summarizes the duties of the Red Cross as preventing the mistreatment of Iranian POW's in Iraq and attempting to trace missing soldiers. It stresses that the Red Cross will be mindful of its other duties with regard to humane rules of war, including the urgent prevention of the use of chemical weapons, of any inhumane or banned weapons, and the prevention of attacks on residential areas. The Red Cross also accepts that it will be dutybound to carry out the necessary international measures on all issues should the two sides violate the rules.

The Islamic Republic of Iran consistently pursues the issue of missing warriors and the registration of all Iranian POW's in Iraq. It has been agreed that the Red Cross shall concentrate its activities within the framework of its international rules and Islamic and philanthropic considerations related to POW's acceptable to both sides.

No Saudi, Iraqi Comments on Larak Attack

LD011522 Tehran IRNA in English 1503 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] London, Dec 1, IRNA — Saudi Arabia does not reject reports that it assisted Iraq in refuelling its jets which attacked shipping at the Iranian terminal at Larak on November 25. Press officer for the Saudi Embassy in London, Robert Seeds [name as received], said Monday that he had no comment to make that Iraqi fighters had landed in Saudi Arabia on their 2,500 kilometer round-trip flight. On such a sensitive issue, he pointed out that it would be inappropriate for him to speak on the matter. Seeds was however willing to confirm that the "Saudi Government assists Iraq" in its war against Iran. "This fact," he said "had never been disputed."

Since Baghdad mounted its longest raid ever against Iran at Larak, reports in London have spoken of Iraq's inability to carry out air-to-air refuelling, necessary for such a mission. The reports indicated that the Iraqi jets must have landed for refuelling in an Arab state and pointed to Saudi Arabia as being the most likely. Aviation sources have revealed that 3 or 4 Iraq aircraft did land in Saudi Arabia when returning from Larak. The sources said that the jets were running out of fuel and had problems with in-flight refueling. The Iraqi Embassy in London was not in a position to dispute the reports, and refrained from commenting on the matter.

During an attack at Sirri in August, it was also claimed that an Arab country had assisted Iraq to carry out the attack. The Iranian Government said it had intelligence which showed that the jets had flown from a Persian Gulf state.

Iraqis 'Frequently' Using Kuwaiti Airspace

LD011850 Tehran IRNA in English 1815 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 1, (IRNA) — Iraqi airforce has lately been observed to be frequently using Kuwaiti airspace disclosed an informed military source, here Monday. The source said that since last week Iraqi warplanes have increasingly by overflown [as received] Kuwaiti territory to attack Iran's industrial installations and also oil-tankers in the Persian Gulf.

Captured Iraqi pilot, Khaled Mahdi Abbass, confessed that four Iraqi Mirages had landed at Kuwaiti International Airport for refueling after bombing Sirri Island, a few months ago.

Other reliable sources had earlier revealed that Kuwait was providing Iraqi forces the use of Bubiyan Island for spying purposes.

130 Basij Battalions Depart for War Fronts

LD011817 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Nov 86

[Summary] Today 130 battalions of Basij forces in the great Corps of Mohammad left for the front from Khorasan, Hamadan, Kerman, Fars, Zanjan, Ilam, Chahar Mahall va Bakhtiari, and Semnan Provinces.

Communique Reports Iraqi Supply Column Hit

LD011726 Tehran IRNA in English 1655 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Tehran, Dec 1, IRNA — Iraq sustained damage and casualties in Kalaleh, northwestern fronts, Sunday, when Muslim combatants of Iran shelled an Iraqi supply column, according to a military communique released here Monday.

Communique Number 2,672 of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces said that Muslim combatats of Iran, braving bad weather, despatched military and reconnaissance patrols and controlled all enemy movements in the north-western battle-fronts.

Parts of Iraqi positions and group bunkers were set ablaze in artillery duels in the western war fronts, the communique said. It added that an undetermined number of Iraqi soldiers were killed and six heavy gun-emplacements, two anti-aircraft guns, as well as three heavy and light vehicles of theirs destroyed.

Sporadic exchange of artillery fire raged on in Qasr-e Shirin where the enemy forces sustained damage and casualties, the communique said.

Exchange of artillery fire continued in the southern fronts on Sunday, raging somewhat more heavily in Talaiyeh operational theater. Iranian forces reconnoitered and shelled Iraqi positions and supply routes in these fronts silencing enemy fire and disrupting their logistical and engineering operations.

Iraqi engineering and surveillance operations were also checked by Iranian artillery fire in Nahr 'Anbar operational theater fronts on Sunday, the communique said.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and enemy fire silenced in parts of the southern and western fronts when they were shelled by Iranian Gendarmerie forces on Sunday. Enemy engineering operations were also halted, said the communique.